

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 789

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation for seventy years of meritorious service.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pride in recognizing those estimable organizations in Tennessee that have served their customers for generations by establishing a tradition of quality service and a genuine concern, and commitment to their community; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary institution is the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, which will mark its seventieth year of existence on March 3, 2008, making a milestone of unparalleled service; and

WHEREAS, adhering to the principles set forth in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Rural Electrification Act, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation (CEMC) opened for business on March 3, 1938, as a member-owned electric power cooperative serving northern middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, six months after opening, the first contract was let for the construction of 300 miles of line to serve the first members of the cooperative; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 1938, CEMC began distributing electricity to 600 customers; as word spread about the impending arrival of electricity, other families placed membership with the cooperative; and

WHEREAS, CEMC has grown by leaps and bounds since its humble beginnings; today, it is one of the largest electric cooperatives in Tennessee and boasts a membership of 90,000 members and over 8500 miles of line throughout the counties of Cheatham, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart, and Sumner, with business offices in Ashland City, Clarksville, Dover, Gallatin, Portland, Springfield, and White House; and

WHEREAS, despite its exceptional growth, CEMC's stalwart commitment to providing its members with reliable electrical service at an affordable price has not wavered; and

WHEREAS, the cooperative is capably governed by a ten-member board of directors who are elected by the membership; and

WHEREAS, the accomplished General Manager is Carl W. Wilson, who will retire on October 15, 2008, after thirty-five years of astute service at CEMC, the last eleven of which he has served with acumen and alacrity as the General Manager; and

WHEREAS, the future of CEMC remains bright as the cooperative prepares for its next seventy years as a customer-oriented electric membership cooperative; and

WHEREAS, CEMC strives to expand its services to its employees, its members, and to the communities it so assiduously serves; and

WHEREAS, CEMC has further established its standing in the public utilities field by joining the Seven States Power Corporation, establishing video conferencing between its district offices, completing construction of a new Mitchellville substation and the upgrade of a Shady Grove substation, putting 59,000 automatic meter reading meters in use, undertaking a GIS data collection project to improve mapping system accuracy and help better predict where outages may occur, starting work on a new operations center in the headquarters building, and establishing an interactive voice response system in its Customer Contact Center; and

WHEREAS, CEMC has enlarged its member services by offering a variety of ways for members to pay their bills; members can now pay their bills by electronic fund transfers, credit card, check-by-phone, or on-line; and

WHEREAS, CEMC has also increased member services by presenting electrical safety programs, inspecting heat pump installations and financing the inspections through the Energy Right program, establishing new Energy Right homes, processing electric water heater rebates, implementing Member Appreciation days in all six of its districts, conducting calendar art contests in public schools, expanding its sponsorship of the Partners-in-Education program to include Robertson County Schools, and coordinating sponsorship of the Old Time Fiddlers Championships, the Kentucky-Tennessee Threshing Show, Lighting Up the Cumberland, the Portland Strawberry Festival, the Junior Better Beef Show, and Read Across America; and

WHEREAS, CEMC highly values its employees and makes every effort to ensure they are healthy and happy; the cooperative has sponsored "Power Up For Life" Day which includes an employee health fair, increased participation in incentive programs, provided discounts on health insurance due to wellness programs, and coordinated specialized employee training in a myriad of topics, including Spanish classes, CPR and First Aid training, and project management; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded company, CEMC generously donates to the communities it serves by sponsoring middle school students to attend 4-H Electric Camp, sending high school juniors on the Washington Youth Tour, awarding scholarships to high school seniors, conducting Angel Tree projects at Christmas time, organizing food drives in all six of its districts, and promoting participation in the United Way campaign; and

WHEREAS, as its management and employees celebrate the cooperative's seventieth anniversary, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation continues to play an integral role in the economic life of thousands people, and the cooperative is richly deserving of this Body's recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation on the occasion of its seventieth anniversary and commend the CEMC's management and employees for their dedicated service to the citizens of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.